



# Madison, Wisconsin



**M**adison, the capital of Wisconsin, was founded on the isthmus between Lakes Monona and Mendota. The city was named for President James Madison and was selected as the state's capital before it was inhabited.

Madison is home to the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison Children's Museum, Wisconsin Historical Museum, and Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The Chazen Museum of Art and the University of Wisconsin Geology Museum are located on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Madison has several performing arts venues. The Overture Center for the Arts is home to the Madison Opera, Madison Symphony, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Madison Ballet, Children's Theater of Madison, Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society, Li Chiao-Ping Dance, Kanopy Dance Company, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition, the Overture Center hosts concerts and Broadway shows. Wisconsin Union Theater, Madison's oldest theater, presents classical music and dance performances, as well as travel films. Alliant Energy Center hosts sports events, horse events, performances, and concerts. Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and offers free and low-cost community programs, such as concerts, dance performances, artistic exhibitions, and an exhibit about Wright.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Over the past 10 years, many high-rise condominiums and apartments have been constructed in downtown Madison's Capitol Neighborhood, offering views of Lakes Mendota and Monona. This neighborhood also has experienced the development of condominiums in converted warehouses. Also located downtown, the Mansion Hill Historic District contains the greatest concentration of intact Victorian houses remaining in the city.

University Heights Historic District, one of the city's first suburbs, is located west of downtown Madison near the city's hospitals and features curvilinear streets and houses designed by leading architects of the Queen Anne, Prairie, and Period Revival styles. The Vilas neighborhood is located along Lake Wingra and near the city's hospitals and the zoo. Architectural styles in the neighborhood include Victorian, Queen Anne, Craftsman, Georgian Revival, and Tudor. The Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood is located in the same area as Vilas and has smaller, 2-story homes with front porches that line the quiet streets. Moving west along Lake Mendota, the Spring Harbor neighborhood has various housing styles and sizes in a rural setting with winding, narrow streets and mature landscaping; approximately 50% of the houses were constructed during the 1950s. Even further west is the Hawk's Landing Neighborhood, which consists of approximately 300 single-family homes built since 2000 on large lots, condominiums, and an apartment complex and is located near Hawk's Landing Golf Club.

East of downtown Madison along Lake Monona, the Marquette Bungalows Historic District consists of 47 small, primarily one-and-one-half story, Craftsman-style houses that were built between 1924 and 1930 and, though not identical, display a cohesive design. Nearby along the lake, the Schenk's Atwood neighborhood is a diverse neighborhood that features mostly modest, older single-family homes on small lots. The McClellan Park Neighborhood includes the Grandview Commons, Covered Bridge, Birchwood Ridge, Rustic Acres, and Jubilee subdivisions and offers single-family homes, condominiums, and apartments. The newly constructed Grandview Commons neighborhood development features traditionally designed houses on small lots.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Amenities found in Madison's 260 parks include 4 golf courses, 6 off-leash dog parks, 2 disc golf courses, 12 beaches, 2 baseball fields, 136 parks with basketball courts, 6 parks with softball fields, 28 parks with tennis, 11 parks with ice skating and hockey rinks, 19 volleyball courts, and 168 playgrounds. Garner Park is home to a Soap Box Derby and Opera in the

Park, a free community event. In the warmer months, the park becomes a popular site for recreational activities, especially soccer. During the winter months, activities include ice skating and hockey.

Olbrich Park is one of Madison's largest lakefront parks and features summertime swimming, boating, and fishing and an ice skating rink and sledding hill in the winter. The adjacent Olbrich Botanical Gardens features landscapes, Midwest hardy plants, tropical plants, birds, and a waterfall within the conservatory. Vilas Park features swimming and fishing in the summer and skating and ice hockey in the winter. A trail links the park with the University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum and the tree-canopied Park and Pleasure Drive. The Henry Vilas Zoo borders the park.

Primarily an off-leash dog park, Quann Park is adjacent to the Wingra bike path and has a large tennis court complex and a community garden. Goodman Park is home to Goodman Pool and is adjacent to the Wingra Bike Path and Quann Park. Breese Stevens field has a 4,000 seat stadium that hosts high school soccer tournaments.

Sports teams include the Wisconsin Wolves (women's pro football team) and the Madison Mallards (collegiate minor league baseball team). In addition, the University of Wisconsin–Madison boasts 11 men's and 11 women's varsity sports teams. The campus's Kohl Center is home to the UW men's, and women's basketball and hockey teams.

## EDUCATION

The Madison Metropolitan School District serves over 24,000 students from the cities of Madison and Fitchburg and surrounding towns and villages with 32 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 4 comprehensive high schools, and an alternative high school. The district also has early childhood programs and alternative programs at the secondary level.

Several options for higher education are available in Madison. The University of Wisconsin–Madison has 20 schools and colleges, including schools of Medicine and Public Health, Nursing, and Pharmacy, and offers undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs. Edgewood College is an independent liberal arts Catholic college in the Dominican tradition. Madison College is a community college that offers associate's degrees and professional certificate programs.

Herzing University in Madison offers bachelor's and associate's degrees in business management, electronics, healthcare, graphic design, and public safety. Upper Iowa University–Madison offers degrees in business and criminal justice. Madison Media Institute offers associate's and bachelor's degrees in media and entertainment occupations. Lakeland College's Madison Campus, Concordia's Madison Center, and Cardinal Stritch University–Madison focus on the adult learner.

## HEALTH CARE

Madison is served by 3 hospitals with a combined total of more than 1,300 licensed acute care beds. In addition, the city has a dedicated children's hospital, 2 long-term acute care facilities, and the 87-bed William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital.

## CITY STATS

	2009
City Population	235,419
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	570,025
Per Capita Personal Income, Madison, WI MSA	\$43,107